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Debbie also thanked the Senator for all of his help in securing funds for additional police officers on the Reservation. Funds were provided under the crime legislation passed last year and the Oneida were successful grant applicants.

**Congressman Roth:** Debbie outlined the Oneida's opposition to the Hudson track and explained the Stockbridge proposal. We thanked him for his letter to Secretary Babbitt in opposition to the Hudson Track. We also offered to get him any information he might need relative to the activity of the Stockbridge proposal. He had no immediate reaction to the proposal.

#### Analysis

With respect to the Hudson track, things don't look good. BIA staff is interested in protecting the rights of tribes who might one day wish to take off reservation lands into trust for gaming purposes. Mike Anderson asks what criteria should be established to prohibit a tribe from moving off reservation land into trust for gaming purposes. An answer which does not threaten sovereignty is difficult to find.

Reaching the "detrimental" standard is difficult, too. According to Tom Hartman, all of the economic impact statements are of no value in this assessment. The addition of a new Indian gaming establishment to a market area brings "normal competitive pressures". The BIA has difficulty saying "no" to one tribe in favor of another, especially when the statute gives them no direction. BIA feels this decision is proper, and in the long run, will work to assist tribes when they are challenged by non-Indian groups with economic arguments alone.

In the case of the Hudson track, or for that matter the Kaukauna track, many of the environmental issues were addressed when the sites were originally established. Although one could argue that casino style gaming will bring more cars, busses, and people, it is likely that accommodations can be made to bring the facilities into line with current laws.

Finally, The political opposition from St. Croix County, the City of Hudson, Obey, Roth, and Gunderson may not be worth very much under the BIA definition of "detrimental." None of these letters say much other than to voice a general objection to the spread of gaming. BIA, in their willingness to uphold the interests of the greater number of tribes, has decided not to give such statements very much weight.

Mike Anderson said to me after our meeting that they are trying to keep this issue on the merits and they will "try to thread the needle" on this request.